

Application No. 09/816,867
Amendment and Response After Final dated September 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 17, 2004 as entered in the above-captioned matter, the Applicants respectfully submit the following response.

Pursuant to the above-noted Office Action, claims 1-7 and 11-17 are pending in the application. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-6, 16, and 17 are allowed. Claims 7 and 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) given Francis (U.S. Patent No. 3,602,064) ("Francis") in view of Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 4,793,206) ("Suzuki"). The Applicants have amended claim 7 and respectfully traverse these rejections and request reconsideration.

As pointed out by the Examiner, claims 7 and 11-15 require a "lever mechanism." Accordingly, Applicants amend claim 7 to recite a "lever" similar to the limitations of allowed independent claims 1 and 16. Neither Francis nor Suzuki provide a lever that experiences translational movement; as a result, no combination of these references will produce an apparatus as set forth in the claims. Applicants request the rejections to claims 7 and 11 through 15 be withdrawn.

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There being no other rejections of the claims, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 through 7 and 11 through 17 may be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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